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The California Garden

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Back to the City



WE have always considered the city as a relic of the times we called barbarous before the present European war, when men herded together for mutual protection; a custom we have preserved without the original excuse, perhaps substituting for protection, spoliation, and now from the pen of O. F. Cook of the U. S. Department of Plant Industry comes a wonderful article named *Eugenics and Agriculture*, to appear in June issue of *Journal of Heredity*, and this is our excuse, if we need any in your mind, for we don't in our own, for introducing the subject.

We would like to give the above referred to article in full but will rest content with the following quotation:

The Importance of Agriculture

Vastly more important than any of the premature and doubtful issues commonly discussed as eugenics, is the relation of agriculture to the well-being of the race. A wholesale elimination of choice lines of descent is going on in our cities, a loss of good blood that must be stayed or we are undone as surely as the Greeks and Romans. The ancient prophecies of the destruction of Babylon, Ninevah and Tyre apply equally well to London and Paris and New York, and to all other places where men try to live away from the land. Man is a land animal, as the preacher of urban socialism has said, but he is also an air animal and a daylight animal, and an animal that needs to be raised in a separate family group, instead of in an urban incubator.

That one people after another, one civilization after another has culminated and decayed need be ascribed to no mysterious decrees of fate or jealousy of gods fearful of being displaced by a more perfected human race. The reason is obvious and thoroughly well known, if not adequately recognized. Each people in turn became urbanized, lost its connection with the soil and departed out of its natural environment, so that its members no longer generally attained their full development of physical strength, mental energy and social efficiency. Eugenics represents an effort on our part to resist these tendencies to urban deterioration, to interpose another set of standards of what normal life should be.

Statistically speaking cities are centers of population, but biologically or eugenically speaking, cities are centers of depopulation. They are like sink-holes or siguanas, as the Indians of Guatemala call the places where the streams of their country drop into subterranean channels and disappear. It never happens that cities develop large populations that go out and occupy the surrounding country. The movement of population is always toward the city. The currents of humanity pass into the urban siguanas and are gone. Thoroughly urbanized people cannot go back and live in the country. They have no resources of mind, no adequate initiative for meeting agricultural responsibilities, no interest in the world or in themselves that enables them to support an existence apart from the crowd. They are as helpless and ill-at-ease as a honey-bee caged away from the hive, or a sheep away from the flock. Not all of the people who live in cities and towns are urbanized in this sense. Many appreciate the country all the more keenly because they are shut away from it for a part of the time. On the other hand, many have a merely sentimental interest in farm life or in the out-door world without recognizing the importance of these factors in human development.



HERE is no good reason why a block should be built solidly; there is no good reason why a business establishment should not have a garden attached; there is no valid excuse for sunless concrete offices with a chill of the tomb, especially in this big out of doors in Southern California where the heating problem is a negligible one. In these days of easy transportation, the business district might well be considerably diffused though to do so would lower the values of real estate in the center it would correspondingly increase them on the circumference. The city herding of buildings and people is merely a habit and a nasty unsanitary ugly one. Europe and the Eastern States are making experiments in so-called Garden cities and the results have been more than pleasing. Lots of big manufacturing concerns have laid out their factories with garden effects and soon we may add to our cry of back to the country from the city, back to the city with the country. There

are hopeful signs. Today it is the common practice of many business houses to keep flowers in their offices, new locations are opened with elaborate floral displays as a big part of the event, and other businesses express their good will by sending bouquets. The auto has enabled the business man to live in the country, more generally

and he is doing it, coming to his office unblushingly bearing handfuls of flowers, there is a man in San Diego whose friends fish into his coat pocket knowing they will find a rosebud there. Yes the time is coming when we shall want to live while we work whatever our work may be, and living will mean more and less than now.

Begonia Metallica--Related Types

By MRS. F. D. WAITE

BEGONIA Metallica is a very old begonia, but it has too much merit to ever be cast in the shade by its newer companions. It is always admired and in demand because of its beautiful bronze and green foliage and heavy red veining, giving to the plant a metallic effect from which it takes its name. It is a good bloomer in the summer, and the flowers perfect their seeds, which is not always the case with this class of plants. In fact the begonia bearers of fertile seeds are not numerous. The Metallica is so prolific of fertile seeds in a San Diego lath house that there is really no excuse for not having plenty of home grown plants, which, I think, are much stronger in every way than those propagated from slips. Then there is the always interesting possibility of getting deviations from the parent plant, a real San Diego product for the floral kingdom. That fine begonia Thurstoni is a child of Metallica and Sanguinea, the former furnishing the deep red veining and coloring, and the latter the smooth shining surface of the foliage.

Another begonia that owes its parentage to Metallica is Marguerite, a seedling, just a come-by-chance. Its foliage is much like that of the parent, but not so richly colored, and it is somewhat smaller and more pointed. It is a good begonia, and can be grown, with little care, into tree-like proportions, with long stemmed clusters of white and pink flowers.

Deuchartreii and Pictavensie, other children of Metallica, are both beautiful and distinctly different in shape of foliage. Deuchartreii has foliage shaped like the parent plant, but larger, while Pictavensie has narrow, oblong foliage. Both of these varieties have extremely large white blooms.

I have never to my knowledge possessed a specimen of begonia Scharfiana, but it must resemble Haageana, as the two are sometimes confused, as also is the case with Haageana and Deuchartreii.

Another pretty begonia of this type—I think it is a seedling of Metallica—was Cu-

prea. I speak of it in the past tense, as I have never seen or heard of it since it left my collection of plants, about fifteen years ago. Storrs & Harrison of Painesville, Ohio, catalogued it, but it was only on sale about two years. When I disposed of mine I supposed I could duplicate it, but I was unable to do so. Cuprea made a very shapely small plant, blooming when very young. The upper surface of its foliage was an extremely dark olive green, and the under side was a deep red, so deep in color that the veins were not noticeable. Perhaps this long lost treasure is still wandering around San Diego, not even knowing its name and desirability, and is an orphan even among begonia enthusiasts.

Certainly one of the choicest begonias of this type is Haageana. This begonia passed for a number of years as a Metallica hybrid. It is a native of Brazil, and takes its name from the senior member of the firm of Haage & Schmidt, who introduced it from Brazil some twenty-five or thirty years ago. Later it captivated all who saw it at a Philadelphia flower show, and yet the specimen then and there exhibited did not begin to compare with those grown in San Diego lath houses at the present time.

After having once seen a fine specimen of Haageana one will not easily confuse it with other begonias. It has large, bronzy green leaves with deep red veins, and is solid red on the under side. The whole plant, leaves, stem and all, is mossy, like a moss rose. It attains a large size in a short time. It blooms best in winter, but with care can be made to bloom continuously with only short intervals of rest. The blooms are pink and white, and do not always open fully, and therefore it is slow in perfecting seed. The panicles of bloom are carried on long, thick stems and are truly marvellous for size and beauty. Scharfiana, Deuchartreii, and Pictavensi, all similar to Haageana in color, and in mossy effect, are beautiful, but not so handsome as Haageana. The large panicles of blossoms

will last three months if well cared for. It needs a strong light to bring out the rich color effect.

Haageana has been confused in San Diego with Deuchartreii, but a study of the two varieties side by side will soon convince the least observant begonia enthusiasts of the difference. Deuchartreii does not have the solid

red coloring underneath the leaves. It has only the heavy red veining. It is green where the other plant is red, even when both are grown in a strong light, and that is the test for these variable begonias. Deuchartreii also has a very large open white blossom, a loose panicle of blossoms instead of the ball-like panicle of Haageana.

Wild Flower Gardens

GUY L. FLEMING



HE May number of the "California Garden" contains a notice of the Wild Flowers Garden in the Exposition Park at Los Angeles. Again San Diego passes up something that might have been hers and lets another claim the credit of being original.

It has been the dream of our president that the future home of the association will be located in a tract of some acreage, and that this tract will contain not only lath gardens and fine examples of landscaping, but a certain part will be featured as a native garden showing all the plant life indigenous to San Diego County and its possible development as material for our gardens. And he never fails to call attention to the fact that a great many of our garden aristocrats trace their lineage to some California aborigine.

Some of the members of the San Diego Society of Natural History have also had dreams of a Wild Flower Garden. They had in mind a Botanical or Ecological Garden, showing the plantings in "associations" or "life zones."

Ecology, you will remember, is the study of plants in their relation to their surroundings or environment. It includes that part of botany which has to do with the way in which plants get on with their animal and plant neighbors, and in the way which they adjust themselves to the nature of the soil and climate in which they live.

Nature has arranged all life in groups, which are, in a general way, dependent on certain environmental conditions. These groups are called "associations" or "life zones."

The plan was to have a tract in the city park set aside for this Botanical Garden. Then to go out into the field and take photographs of the associations to be reproduced, and to make notes of the environmental conditions and as far as possible of the animal, bird, and insect life.

Each association would then be carefully reproduced on the site selected. All the plants plainly labeled, and a bulletin board placed showing a list of the birds and animals found in that society, with reference to the notes and specimens to be found in the museum of the

Natural History Society. In this manner the different plant associations of the valleys, mountains and desert would be copied.

Such a collection would be of great value to a community, presenting as it would one of the most important departments of botany in an interesting and practical way.

San Diego County is rich enough in herself to have one of the finest botanical collections in the United States. In this county are to be found nature's plantings of the seaside, valleys, mesas, mountains and desert. It contains many specimens that are found in but few other places and has representatives of most of the plant families of other parts of the world.

In the early days San Diego was the mecca of all the naturalists, and the records of the Natural History Society contain the names of many of note, among them Dr. Parry, who discovered and named the Torrey pine, which is found in only one place outside of San Diego County, and the *Notholaena Newberryi* (one of the small woolly-back ferns) which from all the writer can learn is found nowhere in the world except at a very small station in this county.

At that time the mesas and canyons close into town still had their natural coat of shrubbery. But Progress and the subdivision man saw nothing in this "brush" and it was ordered out of the way; all this we can forgive, but we cannot forgive the carelessness that allowed our City Park to become denuded of the best of its flowers and shrubs.

The writer was told that in the late 70's a steam rig was used in the park for pulling and cutting the shrub growth into fire wood. This clearing away of course changed conditions and many shade-loving flowering plants perished. Others met their end by the hands of unthinking ones who gather every flower in sight for the purpose of bunching together and sticking in a glass to wither and die.

Many plants that were common thirty years ago are not to be found outside of a few herbariums. Some may have been saved for us by the seed collector.

A few weeks ago Mr. Sumner and the

writer, in one of their rambles, came upon a canyon that is a botanist's paradise. Because of the many mountain mahogany we named it mahogany canyon, and, by-the-way, according to a good authority mountain mahogany is not supposed to be growing in the neighborhood of San Diego. But it is there and we can show it any day, oodles of it.

In this canyon, which is small, we counted over twenty true shrubs; among them, the Catalina cherry, whose glossy holly-like foliage should make it worth while as an ornamental for our gardens; the *Artemisia abrotanum* (Old Man), probably introduced by the Padres. Its warm fragrance always brings to mind the glowing yellow mustard and Ramona, for in its shade we first read her story; the *Ripclacus* or *mimulus glutinosus*, a valued conservatory plant in the East, but with us a free ranger growing in most every soil and practically ever-blooming; then there was oak, willow, manzanita, white lilac (*Ceanothus verrucosus*), and honeysuckle. Altogether a fine example of plant association.

This favored spot is not far from the city and close to a car line. Its growth is already marked for destruction, for we saw the evidence of a proposed road in the slashing along the hillside.

There is an old road down the canyon, it is not much more than a trail and badly washed

by the storms, but some enterprising gardeners have been using it as a means of getting out the leaf mold, of which we saw an abundance. They scrape it away clean, leaving the exposed roots of shrubs. But what's the difference, its only "brush," hardly fit for fire-wood.

At one point on a south and east slope almost devoid of shrubbery, we saw an acre or more of *Phacelia Parryi* and next to it and tying in was a large patch of *Eucelia*, a wonderful blue and gold combination.

On this slope where the sun shone its hottest and where the soil was the stoniest, we found the beautiful little fern *Pellea ornithopus*; it is much like our common cliff brake, or coffee fern, but is of more delicate growth and the leaflets are arranged in threes. It would make an excellent motif for Madame's embroidery.

Lord Avebury said, "Every field is a museum, every stream an enchanted river, every country walk a scientific exhibition, and every wood a fairy forest."

We are all nature lovers at heart, but we do not fully appreciate her beauties until we know them individually. their names and characteristics. A garden such as I have tried to describe would surely contain many letters of introduction.

Forests of Great Age



THAT the forests of Yosemite, Sequoia and General Grant National Parks surpass any other of their kind in the size and beauty of trees and the number of species represented, is stated by C. L. Hill in a publication on the forests of these parks just issued by the Department of the Interior. This pamphlet, which may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 20 cents, contains descriptions of the species and of the forest types as well as pictures of the important trees. The most interesting tree is the sequoia, which is the crowning achievement of the vegetable kingdom in size and majesty and age. "When Cheops dreamed the first pyramid," says Mr. Hill, "some of these hoary giants of today doubtless already were springing up and hopefully taking possession of this very soil above which in lordly height and grandeur they look down upon us for millennium after; while Abraham and Moses and David established and led the people of Israel these hopeful seedlings grew through an exuberant youth; in the lusty strength of approaching prime they were entering into their kingdom over the forest when imperial Rome began; they stood in a calm and undaunted maturity when Jesus trod the

Judean hills; and when William of Normandy fought on the field of Hastings they were already putting on the hoary garments of age. Yet there they still stand today, after another millennium has sped; in calm serenity and majesty, unhurt by disease, unscarred by all save fire and the hand of man, while we, creatures of a day, creep about and peep beneath their mighty shade and pass away, while they live on. And there is no visible reason, barring foolhardy destruction by man, why they should not still live for another millennium or more.

The gardeners on the Danziger Estate, Beverly Hills, Cal., were discussing plants and their origin recently, when one of the bunch asked the question: Where did hops come from? Cobbs, the wit of the lot, said, without a smile on his face: "From frogs, of course."

Don't forget the annual meeting of the San Diego Floral Association, Tuesday evening at 7:45, at the San Diego Club House. Reports of officers, entertaining program, election of the new board of directors, and a general good time.

The Landscape Gardener

By P. D. BARNHART



AT the present time the very atmosphere is charged with the thought of "Nature Study." No better place to begin than with the growing things planted, which are intended to beautify the landscape. No two species unfold into perfection in the same manner, either in foliage or in form. The truly drouth resistant; exotics from Australia, especially Acacias, and Eucalyptus do not expose the flat surface of their foliage to the sun, nor are the terminal buds made up of scales, as is the case with native trees and shrubs, nevertheless, both types of vegetative development are designed by an allwise Creator to make "the desert and solitary places" habitable for His creature; **Man**. A careful study of all these characteristics of bud and bloom, of foliage and of flower, is healthful mental exercise, and a close observation of their diversity is a great help to the development of the virtue; Patience.

Let us return for a moment to the idea embodied in the word **vision**. Since trees require a great length of time to become established, and to attain to proportions that command attention, vision is necessary in the mind of the man or woman who aspires to create scenic beauty of the highest type; that which will nearest imitate Nature. The ultimate size of the subject used for the purpose, must be had clearly in mind when the planting is done, otherwise there will be incongruities, and misfits in the scheme when developed, and the work must be all began anew. Life is too short to make any such mistakes.

A single specimen, which, when planted, may be a small thing indeed, but when full grown be a giant in size. Such should not be set near a fellow member of the vegetable kingdom whose stature is small.

For example: the giant *Cedrus Deodara* should not be planted within fifty feet of the dwarf blue spruce of Colorado. A group of either species, or a group of any other species of Conifers is right and proper. In regard to planting all trees of large growth; there is an immense amount of money, and time, and energy wasted by all amateur landscape gardeners. A single specimen of any subject is infinitely more beautiful when given room to grow and show itself, than is a half dozen of the same kind planted on the same space. Fifty feet is none too many for any of the following named trees. *Cedrus Deodara* and *C. Atlantica*, natives of countries with climates similar to Southern California. *Libocedrus decurrens* commonly known as Incense Cedar, and the one known as Lawson's Cypress, both natives of the northern part of this State, yet

graciously lend themselves to cultivation in this part of the State, if given plenty of water. Of the cypress tribe there are several families which grow to large size. *Arizonica*; our native, *macrocarpa*; the one from Guadalupe Islands, known as *Guadalupeensis*, all should have room for development, and all retain their foliage from base to summit for a century at least. There are plantings all over this southland where some or all of the subjects here named, which when planted were no longer than lead pencils, and because the gardener who planted them lacked vision, set the little things six feet apart, in a feverish haste to make a display quickly. The result is, that in a few years, not a good specimen or fine group of a species is found on many an estate where money has been poured with lavish hand for its adornment.

When groups of trees are made, those of sturdy growth should be planted at least ten feet apart, and when so planted the outside of the group will show all the beauty of a single specimen, and, while the interior will be a secluded spot, the foliage of the subjects forming the group will die for want of light. When a conifer once becomes disfigured by this method of cultivation its beauty is forever destroyed, hence the necessity of vision, of a keen discrimination, a thorough knowledge of the subjects worked with, because, sooner or later about half of them will have to be removed with the axe, if for no other purpose than to permit the inhabitants of the home to get about the grounds.

There is one of two objects in view when the services of the landscape gardener are sought: Seclusion, or vistas of distant views, according to the temperament of the home builder. If seclusion is desired then the residence must be far enough removed from the public highway to permit of winding drives, and paths, but the plantings must be made with the thought in mind that the little trees will grow and develop with the passing of the years, and those intended to be permanent placed far enough away from the passages for vehicles, and pedestrians that it will not be necessary to mutilate them by severe pruning when full grown. Here is where the **vision** of the gardener must manifest itself—here is where the virtue of patience must be exercised to its limit on the part of the home maker, for, no matter how much money he may have or how great his desire for immediate effect, he must bear in mind that the laws of nature are immutable, they cannot be hastened, neither can they be retarded the growth and the development of the members of the vegetable kingdom.

The Lath House

By ALFRED D. ROBINSON



HE wrong person is writing this article. He is merely the husband of the real keeper of the lath house and only does things in it when the latter is away or wants mere brute force in moving heavy articles or digging. That does not prevent him from having opinions; in fact, it helps. This modern development called a lath house is midway between the house and the garden and it needs both a housekeeper and a gardener. No mere man, unsupervised, can really housekeep and that is why the majority of lath houses are feminine evolutions. Go into the utensil department of the lath house and you will find brooms of sorts, dustpans, scissors, gloves, needles even and this naturally suggests furniture. The right kind of lath house furniture has yet to be. Old hickory is hardly the thing, for it is so obviously straining to be rustic that the effect is painfully apparent and it is not so durable as it looks. Bamboo chairs are nice while they last, but they don't last very long and concrete is too cold to be inviting. The ideal stuff is redwood, but what shall the style be? God save us from the Mission, which has been done to death finally in golden shiny oak, and likewise spare us the scroll saw effect, but what can we have? Here is an opening for a designer with a vision. Perhaps our eucalyptus in its endless variety might prove a suitable medium, something done in logs and yet not too loggy. An established fact, however, is that we await the lath house furniture and in the meantime sit upon whatever we can get. This is not a negligible question, the lath house is a room and a pleasant one and the nicest kind of people often have corns and other disabilities that make standing irksome. These should be able to sit in the lath houses of their friends or in their own, and at least some of the seats should be reasonably comfortable.

Tigridias, or shell flowers, are now in bloom. These cheap bulbs should be planted much more freely. Though the blooms only last a day, each bulb makes several and they are strikingly beautiful. There are several colors now and all are very worthwhile. Tigridias are natives of Mexico and Guatamala and the flowers somewhat resemble our calchortas, though from three to five inches across. There is a centre cup-like depression which is heavily spotted and three lip-like petals. It belongs to the iris family and the bloom stalk is very like the Spanish iris.

Tuberous begonias will be coming into bloom. Don't get panicky if some of the first buds drop off without opening; this is the re-

sult of the still cool weather, and it may be good for the ultimate development of the plant. Keep moist, not wet; stake directly necessary, use liquid fertilizer, quite weak, one watering in four after buds begin to form.

Schizanthus are showing color. Of course they grow rather weedy in the lath house, but what is the odds. They flop gracefully and make color, besides their fern-like foliage is fitting.

The lobelias are coming out strongly and the double one Kathryn Mallard seems to like the shade.

Streptocarpus are full of bloom and have decidedly improved with age, the individual flowers being fully as large and many more on a stalk; the leaves too are much longer, some of them exceeding a foot. There is a variety called Wendlandii, which makes one enormous leaf measuring twenty-four by thirty inches and the flowers come out at its base. The name streptocarpus signifies twisted fruit and applies to the seed pod which is twisted. It belongs to the Gesneraceae family and is a native of South Africa, being also known as Cape Primrose. Though quite new out here it was bloomed at Kew Gardens near London in 1826.

A recently received catalogue has started the writer speculating upon a bog garden in the lath house wherein to grow those pitcher plants, lady slippers and the like. It would seem to be easily possible by making a cement tank a foot or so deep and sinking it six inches to a foot. Any one is at liberty to try the experiment and it surely will be alluring to any one who has read the description of the bog garden in Mrs. Porter's books.

Again and always, experiments in new things are urged in the lath house.

The Dahlia



JUST as May went out I made my last planting of dahlia tubers and in so doing discovered a new wrinkle, or what was new to me. I wanted to plant in long trenches, but it seemed a fearful job to dig ditches and I decided on just holes. When these were dug, it dawned on me that all I had to do was to cover the tubers with the soil between each hole and smooth over the dirt thrown out, which gave me my trench with no more trouble than the plain way of planting. After the dahlias were all in, a Planet Jr. cultivator was run over the entire ground and the effect was a beautiful even

roll. When the dahlias are well up this trench will be well covered with manure and no cultivation practiced. Of course this treatment will only do where the soil has extra good drainage and in irrigating the water will have to run fast enough not to drown out the first plants. The first watering after mulching with manure will have to succeed quickly a plain watering or the plants will take up too strong a meal and get indigestion.

There is room for experiment with dahlias as tub plants. Their adaptability to trimming back to make symmetrical specimens, their long flowering period and brilliant florescence together with their quick response to liquid nourishment are all in their favor. Pots would be too hot and even boxes would probably require wrapping. Let us have some potted dahlias at our next show, and think of their effectiveness on porches and in lath houses. Most folks will say, "But I can grow dahlias out in the ground". Of course you can; the idea is to see if you can do it in boxes.

Probably green plants can still be had from the nurseries and dahlias can be successfully planted as long as you can get them to plant.

The great difficulty with most folks who desire to plant dahlias on a small scale is the selection of varieties, and it is realized and freely confessed that this scribe has fought shy of that phase of the question. However the demand for a planting list has been so insistent that another planting season will find the Garden with a list. This will be largely governed by the stock obtainable at home or from the advertisers in this magazine and I expect to make the rounds to compile it. It is also possible that subscribers to the Garden may have the opportunity of securing varieties of local origin.

This month, prune back as directed in May, if you desire stocky self supporting plants. Keep the ground moist, not soggy, and look out for ants.

Where early plants have done their best blooming cut right back to the ground and they will come again for another late crop.

Send in your dahlia queries to this magazine and let it take a shot at them.

The Rose



HIS is the rose's hard year; not that it will be an easy one for any growth, for the weather man reports that the total absence of rain throughout the State for April and May has not happened for fifty-four years. Constant reports come in that gardens are unusually dry and the irrigating question is omnipresent. Fortunately with this universal lack of rain there is an abundance of irrigating water and so far there

seems to be no reason why it should not be used with due care where wanted, that is, if you can pay for it. Roses must be irrigated now and thoroughly, to be followed by cultivation and preferably mulching. The blooms that come will be of inferior grade and the whole treatment is based on the preservation of the bush. Except in small gardens and singular cases it would seem wise to refrain from putting out any new bushes. Of course this does not apply to a single bush here and there where individual watering, shading and care can be given, but is a warning against being seduced into any large experiment by reduced prices on stock.

The last month has seen Dorothy Perkins blooming, and though in some cases with new plants the mildew has not been bad, the old plantings are very much "Tomentosa". American Pillar must be tried in her place, for we need these late bloomers. The color of the latter is not such a true pink as Dorothy and it is single, but its individual trusses are immense and most effective.

One has always to go a long way from home to get the home news and this is the case with a new rose the product of the skill of Fred Howard of Los Angeles and which the whole city council turned out to baptize "Los Angeles" on a recent occasion. The information comes from the Florist Exchange, which contained pictures of the council literally buried in blooms of the baby. This rose narrowly escaped taking the prize at San Francisco Exposition last year and is described as a beautiful blend of coppers and corals and a wonderful doer and keeper after cutting. What more could any one want? One of the bushes perhaps.

Budding can still be done, but it would be well to give stock a good irrigation previously to make the sap flow freely.

That villain that troubles Israel, the rose bug, has been the subject of a recent bulletin from the Department of Agriculture, the chief information in which was that so far no effective remedy had been found. Fortunately his stay is short and when he has reduced us to despair he flaps his wings and departs. The writer just leaves him alone and waits for this blissful time lest he should get irritated and stay longer.

The insidious sucker will now try and steal a march on the rosarian, who is slacking his watch. It loves to come up through some adjacent growth and steal a lot of sap before discovery is made. Keep off the suckers.

Don't wail if you are not getting good rose blooms. Grow something else and dream of next spring.

Annual Meeting, June 20

San Diego Club House

Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD



HE Early Bird hates to confess it, but he has as little respect for the privacy of any one else, say as a book agent; that is, where he suspects anything worthwhile in a floral line may be hidden. This as a preface to a wholly unauthorized account of a visit to the delightful backyard of the Frevert residence on First street. Supposing you are interested, don't imagine I went there uninvited and that you can do the same! this account is the only unsuspected offence.

I have no notes to refer to and the memory is so much more one of a most pleasing ensemble than individual excellencies that I have no easy job before me, but this Frevert garden is such an object lesson in how to defy obstacles, make ingenious turns and bring the Garden of Eden out of the book of Genesis into the city of San Diego that I shall make the attempt to draw a picture of it.

It is reasonable to suppose that there was a time when the Frevert back yard was like most others in the city, occupied by a stable and small corral, a shed with wheelbarrow and lawn mower, a fairly good rake and fifty feet of second-hand hose, and quite a length of clothes line. For the rest some flower pots from which the flowers had died, one scale infested apricot tree and two geraniums. Mr. Frevert freely confesses to this condition. Then Begonias loomed large in the good lady's vision, and horses went into the discard. The stable became a lathhouse, into this went the beginning of the large begonia family that now flourishes there. The lath house expanded, gradually creeping round the edges, a pool arrived with goldfish and aquatics and then a glasshouse.

Not long since some of those begonias flourished so that they went through the roof. Perhaps they thought the Freverts would be dismayed. Not a bit; they built another lath roof higher and better and invited the plants to do some more. In this garden are so many kinds of begonias with such long names that strung out in a line they would reach from Dan to Beersheba. (This illustration is used because I have heard it many times and its length is so conveniently indefinite in my mind). Mrs. Frevert specialises on begonias. Take her a leaf and she will give you a name; a blossom and she will relate a family history; a plant and she will return enough to plant a garden. Mr. Frevert likes strange growths. Let him once get his eye on an odd thing and it is doomed; that is not a good word, rather "blessed" to sooner or later be-

come his. There have been occasions when others have refused his first offers, but that has made no difference, he bided his time and I saw a Philodendron for which he had waited years, now cheerfully climbing a Frevert post. Mrs. Miller loves the little things, tiny fern seedlings and those begonia babies that start life with a minute round leaf that grows, Oh so slowly, when it is watched, and Captain Miller finds a place for roses.

They don't have fences in this backyard. If they want a screen they plant bamboo; if a board division, it disappears behind boxes full of begonias, and if that household has any of those things we all have to hide somewhere, they must get the neighbors to take care of them.

No doubt you are supposing that expert gardeners work all day and keep watch at night in this delectable spot. They do, but their names are Frevert and Miller. The same folks bring leaf mold home in their auto and regularly visit all the nurseries and haunts of plants in the state. If you are real good and show that you have a love for these growing things that will last after you return home and have to take care of them, the Freverts will share with you and then you will find that in a convenient place are boxes and paper and pins and string so that you don't have to do violence to your desire by saying, "Oh, never mind, don't trouble," as when these things are frantically and vainly sought. If there is none of a particular thing to spare you will be told the most convenient place to get it. I learned of several purveyors of plants in San Diego whose existence I had never suspected.

Having bagged every begonia in sight the Freverts are after Cactus, the gorgeous flowered ones and of course they have ferns and draecenas and impatiens and a host of other things all their intimate friends; in fact, part of the family.

Directly you enter the Frevert garden you feel it is really theirs. The atmosphere is so homey, it vibrates with good feeling, why should I not say love. The plants are at home as well as the folks and both are doing their darndest for one another. I would rather be a goldfish in the Frevert backyard than a Strelitza Nicholai in the Exposition lath house, and if you don't know why, I have written in vain.

Have you paid your annual
dues and subscription?

The Romance of the Pines

By JOSHUA S. BAILY, JR.



HE colony of Torrey Pine trees on the coast north of La Jolla is well-known and loved by many who are ignorant of their history. And yet their story, full of romance and interest, is plainly written in the book of nature, and may be easily read by anyone familiar with the language used.

The fact that the only other locality in which they are known to occur naturally is Santa Rosa Island suggests that the Channel Islands were at one time part of the main land. Geological evidence to this end is complete and convincing. Every valley on the coast is prolonged by a deep channel on the floor of the ocean. Now no river can erode the bed of the ocean. The erosive power of water depends on its velocity, and when a river enters the ocean its velocity is slackened, and the detritus it carries is deposited, forming a delta. Consequently these channels were dug when the land was higher and the shore line proportionately further to the west. Since the channels terminate west of the islands it follows that the latter were once a range of mountains guarding the coast, which at that time supported an indigenous flora of its own. This flora is represented today by about 50 plants peculiar to the Channel Islands, occurring nowhere else except in isolated colonies

along the present coast, of which Torrey Pines Hill is one.

Since this subsidence took place the coast has been rising. The skeleton of a whale found at Mission Hills, several years ago, proves that this locality was once beneath the ocean, and the occurrence of fossil shells between Bird Rock and Pacific Beach belonging to species now living off the coast indicates the same thing. The difference in altitude between the fossil beds and the habitat of the living species would seem to indicate that at the period of its lowest depression Torrey Pines Hill was entirely surrounded by water. This explains the extinction of the species elsewhere and its preservation here.

There yet lacks one link in the chain of evidence, and that is to prove that the elevation of land above described took place subsequent to its submersion. Had this not been the case, the strata would be continuous, but this is not so, as there is a very distinct plane where there is no continuity whatever. Beneath this plane the rocks have been eroded, and since erosion never takes place beneath the ocean, these tilted strata were dry land at one time. They may be best seen in the cliff between La Jolla and Long Beach. On them is a sedimentary deposit showing that a later submersion took place. They are now dry land again, the result of a subsequent elevation.

This is the romance of the pine trees.

A Morning in the Frevert Lath House

By RUTH INGERSOLL ROBINSON



FEW words descriptive of the lath house owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Frevert may add to the pleasure of those who are looking forward to visiting it on July 18th, with the Floral Association. This garden, under the laths, is a bit of daintiest fairyland transplanted to First and Walnut streets, San Diego.

The luxuriant growth of many ferns, hundreds of delicately-colored begonia blossoms and the musical flow of the fountain, makes a bower worthy of fairy rivels. If there be fairies, or brownies, or water sprites who have not discovered this enchanting playground, they should "hie them thither in the pale

moonlight." The botanist, the lover of flowers, the amateur gardener and even the "tired business man" will be thoroughly charmed by a day time sojourn in this lath house so it is quite fitting that the fairies hold sway at night.

But, aside from the generally beautiful effects achieved by Mr. and Mrs. Frevert, many individual plants in their lath house deserve "honorable mention." Mrs. Frevert has had unusual success in raising the dainty streptocarpus from seed which dropped on the damp sand shelf and germinated. Two Florida air-plants are perhaps the finest specimens in the city; and the fruit of a splendid philodendron

has advanced to a remarkable stage of development. Tree begonias and Australian tree ferns thrive in the "shade of the lath"; and a climbing begonia is a most interesting exhibit. Giant Sultanas in the light pink and cerise tints are very attractive in beds bordered by the blue lobelia. The tall graceful leaves of a Jamaica flax are spread just as an open fan, producing a novel effect. The fuchsia vine is festooned over many hanging baskets, and at certain seasons, when it is covered with bright red berries, is distinctly decorative.

Now we come to the real purpose of the Frevert lath house—the raising of ferns and begonias. And such a wealth of maiden hair, finger fern and elk-horn fern as awaits the visitor! Baskets of maiden hair and the Prima Donna begonia hang above the lily pond and are gently sprayed by the fountain! A thatch of palm leaves and ornamental grape vine shades the pool and rustic benches by the water's edge, are most inviting. One of the finest begonias is the *gilsonii* which has a double blossom. Another, the *lloydii* is exquisite with coral colored blossoms, the petals of which are slender and of irregular length,

resembling a small dahlia.

Mrs. Frevert's collection of Rex begonias is indeed a rare one—a large group of the Roi Ferd Major being particularly worthy of observation. Tuberous begonias are found in many varying shades. In fact one hundred and thirty varieties of begonia are represented in this lath house. They must be seen to be thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated, and the members of the Floral Association have a great pleasure awaiting them.

In response to the announcement of a deficit on account of the recent rose show, Mr. George W. Marston sent his check for \$20, Dr. Tell J. Berggren \$3.50 and Mrs. E. H. Rogers \$3.50. Mrs. M. German continues a practice started by her worthy husband, the late M. German, of sending a check annually for \$10.

There is a growing feeling that the flower shows should be free or at such a nominal charge that any one can afford to go, and these responses to defray the deficit of the last show encourage us to believe that others would come forward in like manner should the free admission be tried again.

The Flower Gardens

Miss Mary Matthews



CONTINUE to irrigate and cultivate frequently. Cultivation is more than half the battle. All sorts of palms and tropical plants may be set out or transplanted during this month. Give them water, good drainage and protection from the winds.

Keep your edging plants trimmed in. Keep all dead blossoms picked off the annuals and perennials and you will greatly lengthen the bloom period.

Give your chrysanthemums attention. Those that were set out early will need pinching back and suckers removed from the roots. Since the great popularity of the dahlia, "mums" seem to have been put in the back ground, but with a little planning they can be brought into bloom after the most of the dahlias have passed. For this purpose masses of the ordinary garden kinds, also the single and pompon, should be planted.

If you desire annuals for fall blooming, coreopsis, mignonette, phlox, etc., plant now, also stocks for winter blooming.

If you care for cinerarias, to have them in bloom in the early spring, seeds should be put in the last of this month. The soil must be very fine as the seeds are small. Just sprinkle them on the surface of the soil and cover the seed pan with a piece of glass 'till the young seedlings show. While the plants are very small prick them out into small pots, keep them growing right along, never letting them

get pot bound. The secret of success is to grow them cool—another popular pot plant is the cyclamen. These can be grown under similar conditions. It takes fifteen months to flower cyclamen from seed and they should not receive a check—the bulbs are best thrown away after flowering. The last of the trio of popular pot plants is the Chinese primrose. These, when potted off, do not like to have the soil packed about their roots. The secret of growing them is to get them potted at just the right depth; if too deep they rot off; if too shallow they topple over. They should be so the base of the lower leaves will be at the surface of the soil. To these three I wish some one would add the calceolaria or lady's slipper. I have tried them over and over but with no success. Probably in a cool and protected from winds spot in the lath house they could be grown.

Young aster plants will want to be looked after every day. Keep the soil loose and moist, work in a little bone meal around each plant and keep a watch out for the beetles. Look your garden over and see what you have that is really worth while that you can exhibit at the next flower show, probably about the time when dahlias are at their best. Each plant or flower, if it is a good one, adds just that much more to the success of the exhibit, and it is certainly being shown in San Diego that flower shows are great educators, both for pleasure and profit.

The Vegetable Gardens

By Walter Birch.

EMPUS FUGIT" and here it is June again, altho some of these days feel more like March, giving us no excuse for want of vim to work in the garden. The heat so far is a negligible quantity, and we have not that plea to make for any neglect of our gardens, provided we have the time to give them proper attention.

In the vegetable garden many of you will have been bothered with beetles, worms and bugs of different kinds, and if you wish to save your plants, these will have to be looked after. In a general way you will find that sprinkling lime on the ground around your plants will help to keep these pests away, and at the same time will benefit your soil, but the best all-around cure for leaf-eating insects is arsenate of lead, commonly known as "Corona Dry". This is a fine powder and is used by dusting it on the plants. Do not use it on plants that are nearly ready for the table as it is a poison, unless you are very careful to thoroughly wash the plants before using them, but for plants in the growing stage there is nothing that will get the insect quicker.

June is a good month to put in another planting of practically every thing in the vegetable line that you already have planted. If you are only now starting your vegetable garden, do not be afraid to plant, as there is lots of time yet to get plenty of vegetables for the table before the summer is over. You can sow cabbage and sweet corn, cucumber, lettuce, radish, peppers, pumpkins squash and turnips, and set out tomato plants, egg plant and sweet potato plants, if you can get them. You can also plant muskmelon, watermelon and casabas. Beans will do well planted now, but you will do better with peas about the middle or end of July, as it is better to have them come in after the warmest part of the summer is over. You will find the Fordhook Famous Cucumber a good one, being more immune from blight than the other varieties. California Cream Butter and Iceberg lettuce are both good for this time of year, and the Improved Hybrid casaba is a delicious melon and a good keeper. If plucked when full grown and stored in a cool place, they will ripen and keep until away on in the winter.

Regarding fruit trees it is not too late to set out orange, lemon and grape fruit. Strawberry guavas and Feijoa Sellowiana, or pineapple guavas can still be planted. The later has been in bloom for the last month, and is quite effective as an ornamental as well as valuable for its fruit which is unique and delicious. June is also a good month for planting the Avocado, or Alligator Pear tree, a very handsome evergreen tree, the fruit of

which can be served in a number of different ways and is most nutritious.

The bulb season is drawing to a close, but gladiolas and cannas will still give good blooms in the late summer, if planted in good soil and well taken care of.

There are a number of bedding plants that can yet go in and which will bloom during the summer and fall. Chrysanthemums, snapdragons, zinnias, lobelias, salvias, Sweet Williams, coreopsis, etc.

Hooray! More articles were turned in this month than we could use. Joshua Baily, Jr., has written the Torrey Pine Romance, Guy Fleming makes some good suggestions in a Wild Flower Garden article, and Miss Ruth Robinson is back again with her interesting visits to San Diego gardens.



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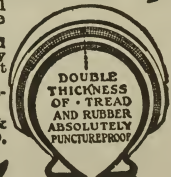
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The California Garden

Alfred D. Robinson, Editor
G. T. Keene, Manager

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REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings of The San Diego Floral Association on the third Tuesday of every month at 8:00 p. m.

June 20—Annual Meeting with Election of Directors at San Diego Club House.

July 18—(a) "Ferns." (b) "Fall Blooming Plants." With Mrs. W. L. Frevert, 3535 First Street.

August 15—(a) "Violets." (b) "Planting Seeds for Winter Blooms." With Mrs. I. D. Webster, 1028 Thirty-second St.

OUT-DOOR MEETINGS

First Tuesday of the month in the afternoon:

July 11—Mrs. Erskine J. Campbell, Point Loma.

August 1—Mrs. Charles W. Darling, Marcellita, Chula Vista.

May Regular Meeting

The May regular meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Field, Tuesday evening, the 16th. The Lath House and Begonias were the subjects for discussion, and were ably handled by Pres. Robinson and Mrs. F. D. Waite, with many others joining in.

Committees for the annual meeting to be

held at the San Diego Club House, Tuesday evening, June 20, were named as follows:

Decorating—Miss Sessions, Miss Rainford, Miss Clough and Mrs. Kneale.

Refreshments—Mrs. L. A. Blochman and Mrs. F. A. Frye.

Program—A. D. Robinson, Fred Grumm, Guy Keene.

"TITANIC" WHEAT

The Department of Agriculture has recently been advised by a correspondent in California that a variety of wheat is being advertised under the name "Titanic". The assertion is made that it is a new variety of wheat discovered in England about four years ago, and that a small quantity of seed was brought to the United States by one of the survivors of the ill-fated Titanic. The wheat is represented as having extremely high yielding power, the returns reaching as high as 7,000-fold. A photograph sent by this correspondent shows a head identical in appearance with the widely exploited "Alaska" wheat. Five acres of the wheat are said to be growing in the State of Washington, and the seed, it is believed, will be offered at high prices after harvest. The department has no further or more definite information concerning this variety, but farmers and dealers are cautioned to be on their guard concerning this new exploitation.

A Garden reporter stepped in to the Park Commissioner's office, on the Exposition grounds, a few days ago, and happened to overhear a conversation on the merits of a new fertilizer. "I know it is all right," Mr. Morley was saying, "because, since we began using it Gorton has grown three inches." Some day, when a long enough tapeline is handy, I'm going to measure our friend Gorton to see if the Superintendent was telling a fact, or only joking.

San Diego Floral Assn. Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 20
San Diego Club House

Plants for Ground Cover

By P. D. Barnhart

Bare ground in this Southland is as undesirable as in any other part of the world, and good gardeners bend all their energies to cover the face of the earth with some green cover. To do this successfully during our rainless seasons taxes the skill and the ingenuity of all gardeners who attempt the task.

Of course blue grass and white clover are the plants par-excellent for the purpose, and more largely used than any others, but extensive areas covered with them is an expensive proposition. No one who has not a large bank account and willing to draw on it freely, had better begin the work, for it must be watered copiously, and fed liberally if it is to grow lush and green.

Several years ago a plant was introduced into our midst from tropical Australia. Its name is *Zoysia pungens*, and for a common name; velvet grass has been applied to it. It is a tough, wiry plant; creeping over the ground, rooting all along the stems, and in localities congenial to it, forms a dense mat, a foot thick, uneven in surface. The term "congenial" is here used, because the plant is worthless as a ground cover near the coast where the nights are cool, and humid, neither will it endure the frosts of the interior valleys. A year ago enthusiasts put this subject on the market with the statement that it required no water, neither was a lawn mower necessary to keep it a smooth, even surface. The first statement is not correct, as for the second, it is doubtful whether a hand lawn mower is made that will cut it, so tough and wiry are the stems and the foliage. I believe that it belongs to the bamboo family of plants.

Another plant which greatly resembles *Zoysia* in appearance is *Sagina procumbens*, a member of the Carnation tribe, which requires no shearing to keep it in good condition

and beautiful in appearance, but it, like blue grass, must have plenty of water, moreover it must be grown in the shade. For walks in lath houses it is a desirable subject. After much experimenting, and years of observation, there are four species that fit the arid climatic conditions which prevail in this part of the world and are here given in their order of merit: *Lippia repens*; *Veronica repens*, *Mesembryanthemum multiflora*, and *Nierembergia nivularis*. The first two for locations that are to be trod upon. The others will not endure such treatment.

There seems to be an impression on the minds of most people that *Lippia* will thrive on poor soil and without water. This is an error which accounts for the unhappy appearance of the plant all over this Southland. It, like all other hardy members of the vegetable kingdom **must** have some water, and some **feed** during our rainless season if it is to look well and endure rough usage. In very truth all plant life, mute though it be, responds to the loving care of the gardener who cultivates it, either for pleasure or for profit, or for both.

A word in conclusion relative to the *Nierembergia*. For several months it is covered with white flowers an inch in diameter, with yellow centers, and for this reason is the most spectacular of the quareette when in bloom.

No Apology

The Garden makes no apology for having two articles in one issue on the Frevert gardens. In the first place, they are worth it; and secondly, they show how the same scene will impress two minds. After being so well advertised we will expect a record-breaking attendance at the July meeting to be held at the Frevert home.

Annual Meeting, Tuesday, June 20th

The annual meeting of the San Diego Floral Association will be held Tuesday evening, June 20, at the San Diego Club House. Reports will be heard from the officers, followed by the election of a board of directors for the coming year. In the meantime, the Secretary would like to have a large number pay their membership and subscription in order that the report may be made as "rosy" as possible.

In accordance with former usage and to fa-

cilitate the transaction of business, members are asked to send in their choice for Directors. A list will be made up from the returns for distribution at the annual meeting to be held at the San Diego Club House on June 20th.

Have *you* paid your subscription and membership dues?

June Out-Door Meeting



THE June Out-Door meeting was held at Rosecroft, the Point Loma home of Pres. and Mrs. Alfred D. Robinson. Nearly 150 attended and spent a delightful afternoon going about the grounds and plying their host and hostess with all manner of questions as to the names, habits and best methods of culture of the great variety of plant life to be found there.

It is hard for one to believe that eight years ago Rosecroft was a barley field, but such is the case. In the few years since Mr. and Mrs. Robinson took possession of this ten-acre plot the tall trees have been grown, starting in most instances from two-inch pots, and the barley field is now a wealth of plantlife which bring forth in their season wonderful roses, dahlias, and seemingly a thousand other works of Nature.

Another belief is that the soil must be unusually rich and fertile, but again the opposite was true at the beginning, though generous applications of fertilizers have worked a great improvement.

The Robinsons have a residence that I suspicion might have cost \$25,000, and is very pleasing in design, but it is distanced as an attractor of attention by the lath-house, which cost only a small fraction of that amount.

Their lath-house is an evolution from the original chicken-coop variety, which began with the discovery that many plants do better in partial shade than in the full sunlight, until today it becomes a sort of detached room of the house and a very much used room at that.

Ferns, begonias and many other plant families thrive wonderfully under lath. An odorata alba begonia (I hope that name is right) of great size, divided attention during our visit with some baby hummingbirds which were just about ready to leave their nest.

This was a floral meeting, so I am not going to even mention the fact that Mr. Robinson's second hobby, if you want to call it that, is the raising of barred rock chickens, and a few who were especially interested were permitted an introduction to "Olympus" a son of "Cassandra."

The snail's mouth is armed with a sawlike tongue, like a long, narrow ribbon, coiled up so that only a part of it comes into use at any one time. Distributed over the surface of this ribbon are tiny teeth.—Indianapolis News.

P. D. Barnhart, of Los Angeles, made a short visit to San Diego this week. Mr. Barnhart's regular contribution to The Garden of valuable plant articles is greatly appreciated and he is always a welcome visitor.

We treated her right while yet alive



WE have heard a rumor of a memorial to Cassandra. Now we don't want it, nor yet does Cassandra. These towers without purpose and gates without fences that litter our world supposedly to honor the great dead are a fake. We think by them to propitiate the gods of those that are gone and ease our conscience for our neglect of them when here.

When you see a memorial look for the uneasy conscience back of its building. It is an indubitable fact that the world failed to appreciate Cassandra. Only the few with vision realized that she was a superfowl, but as long as we can prevent it that failure shall not be wiped off the slate by a memorial now she has gone. Not a grain of corn to the living but a granite monument for the dead. Paugh!

However, life always gives another chance and yours is here, for the descendants of that wonderful fowl can still be had at Rosecroft and you are notified that the price is going up. A Texas gentleman thanks us in a recent tear bespattered letter for our goodness in letting him have half a dozen little ones for \$15.00. Do you know less than Texas?

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